

August 31st – What It's All About

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecc. 12:13-14)

The Book of Ecclesiastes is a unique book. Written by Solomon, he chronicles the highs and lows of the human experience. His assessment of our situation is not too encouraging: “‘Vanity of vanities,’ says the preacher, ‘All is vanity’” (Ecc. 12:8). Solomon is trying to tell us that many of the things we place great emphasis in have very little eternal consequence. And even at times when we're trying to do the right things and live with integrity, things can still blow up in our face.

Knowing the very volatile nature of our human experience, Solomon offered some much needed advice. He gives us two guiding principles – fear God and keep His commandments. What does it mean to fear God? Fearing God speaks of a holy reverence we have for our Maker, knowing that if we are disobedient to His commands He can punish us as He pleases. Some suggest that we no longer need to fear the Lord. They say, “We are New Testament Christians.” They need to understand that fearing God is for those under grace just as it was for those under the Law. The early church was found “walking in the fear of the Lord” (Acts 9:31) and so should we.

As we have a holy reverence for God, we will find ourselves obeying His commands. God knows we are sinners. We will never keep all His commands perfectly on this side of heaven, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try. Remember, Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13). Our lives can be transformed by fearing God and obeying His Word!